

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claim 1 are amended., and claims 10-15 are added. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on April 6, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to consider the references submitted therewith and return a copy of the signed and initialed Form PTO-1449 to Applicant's representative. For the convenience of the Examiner, a copy of that form is attached.

Claims 1 is objected to because of an informality. Claim 1 is amended, as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Claim 1 is amended, as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection. It is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,572,205 to Sjönell in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,901 to Itonaga et al. ("Itonaga") and claims 3, 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Sjönell in view Itonaga, as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8.. For at least the reasons discussed below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Sjönell teaches a blood pressure measuring cuff including a bladder 2, which is divided into secondary bladders 3, 4, and 5 (col. 2, lines 15-20). The secondary bladders or sections 3, 4, 5 can be made each in one piece and placed above each other or can be formed by gluing, vulcanizing or welding a bladder corresponding to the section 5 along lines so that three sections are obtained (col. 2, lines 23-29).

Itonaga teaches a blood pressure measuring cuff 10 with a pressurization fluid bag 11 and a press fluid bag 12. The pressurization fluid bag 11 pressurizes arteries based on a predetermined amount of air that is supplied to the pressurization fluid bag 11. The press fluid bag 12 serves as a pressing section to cause pressurization fluid bag 11 to press wrist portion 1 (col. 6, lines 2-17).

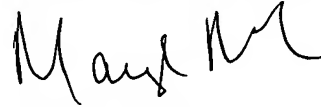
Neither Sjönell nor Itonaga, however, disclose or suggest the combination of features recited in claim 1 including, *inter alia*, a first inflatable bag, a second inflatable bag that is supported by the inflatable cuff such that the second inflatable bag is located inside a downstream-side portion of the first inflatable bag as seen in the direction in which the blood flows in the arterial vessel, and which has a dimension as measured in said direction that is smaller than a dimension of the first inflatable bag as measured in said direction, a fluid-filled bag that is adapted to be located between the second inflatable bag and the body portion, and a shield plate that is located between the first inflatable bag and the second inflatable bag. For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that the combination of Sjönell and Itonaga fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 1, as well as all the features of claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

New claims 10-15 are allowable over the applied references for at least the reasons discussed above with regard to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Maryam M. Ipakchi
Registration No. 51,835

JAO:GRL/mmi

Attachment:

May 6, 2005 PTO-1449

Date: June 23, 2005

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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